

Citizens Recognized for Service to Veterans

2006 Outstanding Service to Veterans Awards were presented at the Auburn Veterans Day Luncheon, following the annual Auburn Veterans Day Parade on November 11.

The awards - co-sponsored each year by the Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee (VAAC) and the state Department of Veterans Affairs - recognize individuals who devote time and energy to improving the lives of Washington's veteran community.

Outstanding Veteran Volunteer for 2006

Robert Campbell, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, is a volunteer at the Washington Soldiers Home, spending more than 5,000 hours there during the last 17 years.

In addition to visiting new residents and interviewing them for the Homes weekly newsletter, Bob keeps a list of all the residents' military history to help students and book writers tell their story.

This last year, Bob has been undergoing treatment for throat cancer, and still only missed a short amount of time volunteering, because he says "I feel better when I am at the Soldiers Home seeing my veteran friends ...they lift my spirits."

Outstanding Volunteer Service Officer for 2006

Hannah Dockery came to the Vancouver Veterans of Foreign Wars in November 2003 as a work study where she has been a valuable and dedicated member of the VFW team, attending Post Service Officer School and helping in the Vancouver area as a volunteer since July 2006.

Hannah has taken the added responsibility of the DSHS referral program in that area, which contributes to over 15 new claims each month, helping those in long term care, and spends numerous hours of her own time to make sure that the claims are handled properly and that all claimants are well taken care of.

Hannah has been an active member of the Oregon Air National Guard since March of 2002.

Outstanding Service Officer for 2006

Tom Riggs is a retired SGM with the U.S. Army. While working as a Veterans Benefits Specialist with WDVA, Tom was instrumental in developing and implementing the state Memorandum of Understanding two years ago between the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, the Washington Military Department and Federal, State and Local agencies.

This last year, Tom transferred to the WA. Military Department in the same capacity, and has since developed relationships with more than 30 additional partners that enable WDVA and the Washington National Guard to accomplish successful VA outreach events.

Tom has been a key leader and organizer in providing customer service to over 2500 service members in WA during more than 30 Family Activity Days in armories throughout the state, and has dedicated many hours volunteering his own time, money and experience to ensure complete outreach to our service members and their families.

Outstanding Employee for Service to Veterans for 2006

Tim Sewell has worked as a Service Officer with the Snohomish County Veterans Assistance Program since 2000.

During the illness of a fellow service officer suffering from exposure to Agent Orange, Tim assumed much of the workload for the program, and after his friend's death, he managed the program by himself, doing intake, counseling and writing vouchers for several months until another VSO was hired.

Tim has played a key role in establishing the Veterans Incarcerated Program in Snohomish County, working to collaborate with the King County Veterans Assistance and Snohomish County Correction Center.

During his 20 year career in the US Navy, he volunteered as a counselor and mentor to young sailors, helping them adapt to military life, as well as learning to budget and understand policy and procedure.

Outstanding Female Non-Veteran for Service to Veterans for 2006

Elizabeth Johnston is the Marine Mom of Lance Corporal Joseph C. Paul, who served in Kuwait in 2002. While home on leave his answer to his mother's question of what she could do to help was "Mom, just support all of us."

Elizabeth's idea of support gave birth in 2003 to [Mothers of Military Support](#) or MOMS, a not-for-profit organization committed to supporting our Troops, Veterans, and their families from all branches of the military.

The organization is made up of volunteers: Mothers, Fathers, Brothers, Sisters, Aunts, Uncles, Friends, Churches, Corporations and businesses.

For those deployed, MOMS supplies Danner Desert Acadia boots, comfort kits, cards, letters, phone cards and other various items they may request.

For those families of deployed military and veterans, MOMS finds way to continually remind them how thankful we are for everything they are doing.

Outstanding Male Non-Veteran for Service to Veterans for 2006

In 1999, the World War II Educational Foundation formed to promote education of the WWII Memorial on the capitol grounds in Olympia.

When their mission expanded to provide oral histories of Washingtonians' roles during WWII, **Karl Schmidt**, owner of [Bristol Productions Ltd.](#), became a volunteer advisor to the group, and was later contracted by Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction to produce a documentary of the oral histories for use in Washington public schools.

Karl traveled throughout the state, spending hours interviewing and taping the histories of the WWII generation, taking a personal interest in each of them, listening for hours to their stories as they relived that time in their lives.

The vision of the Foundation soon became much more than just hours of interviews on video – it became a dream of the aging members to leave a living legacy to the citizens of Washington that would involve websites, teacher workshops, lesson plans, and became the [Voices of World War II](#) project.

The expansion of the project was made possible, because Karl took the Foundation's vision and turned it into reality.

In August 2001, "When We Were Kids...We Went to War" premiered, and became an award-winning documentary, receiving five National awards.

In Sept. 2006, "During the War...Women Went to Work" premiered, and has been predicted to surpass the success of the 2001 documentary.

Karl has kept the project on-task, even as the Foundation membership has dwindled with the passing of this exceptional group of WWII generation patriots.

During the next year, Karl will develop the lesson plans for the Women's documentary, deliver statewide teacher workshops, and at the direction of the Foundation will prepare the entire project to

be delivered to the Washington State Historical Museum, where the legacy will be preserved for generations to come.

2006 Outstanding Patriotic Service to Veterans

Operation Support Our Troops – OSOT – rallied for the first time on January 18, 2003, at Camp Murray. They waved flags, held signs of support and shouted “Thank you” to the Soldiers coming and going, providing the Troops being deployed a picture of American flags flying high and fellow citizens expressing their support.

To show local troops they are appreciated for their service and sacrifice, OSOT stages and attends rallies with OSOT members, and hangs banners of encouragement in prominent locations near Fort Lewis, starting with about 25 members in 2003 to thousands when the 81st National Guard Brigade deployed

OSOT has adopted a variety of military units and sends the troops care packages filled with everything from snacks and toiletries to decorated Christmas trees and stockings to improve holiday morale, with close to 8,000 packages scheduled to be shipped during the next few weeks.

Nadine Gault, Sheryl (Gulit) Sheaffer and Dale Gould (Nadine’s Brother-in-Law and Sheryl’s Uncle) were the initial organizers of OSOT and Terry Harder joined the core team shortly thereafter. They have since been joined on the core team by Bill and Norma Anderson, Lee and Claudette Sexton, Blaine and Diane Anderson, Gail and Ladd Wilmoth, Donna Watts, Pat Behymer, Jeff Gunno, Michelle McKee and Shelly Nagel-Weber.

The 2006 Outstanding Legislators for Service to Veterans went to Senator Jim Kastama, 25th Legislative District and Representative Mark Miloscia, 30th Legislative District, for their continued support of veterans and their families.

Nomination forms for next year's awards can be obtained from the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs by calling (360) 725-2167 or on-line at www.dva.wa.gov